

AVTT Traveling Wall, Butler PA Schedule
Honor All Veterans of Vietnam War
Honor Residents Butler VA Medical Facility in Attendance
Honor ALL Veterans in Attendance
Honor the Veterans of Northern Butler County
Salute VA Security & Butler Township Police Law Enforcement Officers

Thursday, 24 August, 2017, 12 Noon Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies – Dennis Christie, Veteran, United States Army, President Butler County American Legion Riders

Present David Cord, Director Butler Veterans Administration Healthcare for comments. Please extend our grateful thanks and appreciation to Nathan and the entire Engineering, and Maintenance Departments for their long, hard work to plan and prepare this ground for the arrival of the AVTT Traveling Wall that we see here today.

Welcome all present. This AVTT Traveling Wall is a Mission of HONOR RESPECT REMEMBRANCE of our fallen and serving men and women in uniform for those without the means to travel to our great national memorial. Give it the respect that it has earned and remember that this entire area is a non-smoking area.

Present interesting Wall facts.

Posting of the Colors – Bantam Marine Detachment 743

National Anthem – We invite all present to join in singing as the Moniteau High School Band plays as the flag of the United States of America is raised by Bantam Marine Sergeant Major Sam Zurzolo.

Pledge of Allegiance - We invite all present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.

Invocation – Chaplain, Carl Hesidenz, Butler Bantam Marine Detachment 743

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – Butler Bantam Marine Detachment 743

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA personnel – Butler Bantam Marine Detachment 743

Present Wreath of Flowers – Butler Bantam Marine Detachment 743

Present Speaker – 1st Sergeant Dennis McMahon III 1st Sgt. Dennis McMahon enlisted April 1984. He served with the Old Guard, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment. He participated in the Presidential Inauguration Parade in 1985, was a Sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery 18 months. Upon reenlistment he became a Counterintelligence Special Agent - Desert Storm/Shield, receiving a Bronze Star, Saudi Arabia/Kuwait Liberation Medal & War on Terrorism Medal. Many

additional medals include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service, Army Commendation, and Army Achievement Medal. Other assignments include Germany, Ft. Monmouth, Ft. Gordon, Camp Zama, Japan, Ft. Bragg, Ft. Meade, and Korea. Badges include Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Badge #320, Expert Infantry, Air Assault, and German Schutzensnier. He was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club for elite Non-Commissioned Officers and recipient of the Military Intelligence Knowlton Award.

1st Sergeant McMahon married Lisa (Smith) McMahon in 1984. The couple has three sons - Connor, Austin, and Evan. He retired in 2004. He is a Butler resident employed by Office of Personnel Management as Senior Security Specialist.

Master of Ceremonies – Thank 1st Sergeant McMahon for his insight

Master of Ceremonies – This concludes our afternoon ceremony. Thank you for attending.

Thursday, 24 August, 2017, 7 PM Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies – Ronald Huff, Veteran, United States Navy, Butler County Veteran of the Year.

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Present interesting Wall facts.

Master of Ceremonies – We invite all present to join in singing as the Karns City High School Band plays our National Anthem.

Master of Ceremonies – We invite all present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America

Invocation – Bob Ripper, Chaplain, American Legion Post 642, Chicora, Past Butler County Veteran of the Year

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – American Legion Post 642, Chicora – Navy veterans Jerry Cogley, past Butler High School teacher and Dave Curran, Past Armstrong County Veteran of the Year

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA personnel – Fred Callihan, American Legion Post 642, Chicora

Present Speaker – John Rob. John was born and raised in Karns City, Pennsylvania and attended Fairview Township Joint High School. As a Lieutenant, he was a flight leader and platoon leader with the highly decorated 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion in the U.S. elite 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam where he flew an incredible 650 missions. He saw action in 1968 and 1969 during the height of the war. John lead combat assaults in both I Corps and III Corps – as well as flying Special Forces and

Marine Recon missions in Laos and North Vietnam. After his active military service he joined the Fairfax County (VA) Police Department. He was assigned as a patrol officer, major crimes detective and was asked to form and command the Police Helicopter Unit. John retired as Deputy Chief of Police. After retiring, he provided law enforcement consulting services to the federal government and many police departments throughout the United States and the Virgin Islands. John married his former high school sweetheart Sally Christy 48 years ago. She is from Bruin.

John has authored the book "North Flag" about his experiences as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

Master of Ceremonies – Thank John Rob for his insight.

Master of Ceremonies – Announce two ceremonies - the Candlelight Ceremony and the "From the Other Side" Ceremony. As you entered this evening you were presented with glow lights and asked not to activate until the proper time. We ask that you proceed to spread the length of the AVTT Wall and stand facing the Wall as American Legion Rider, Leroy Bunyan, reads the stirring narrative "From the Other Side."

Master of Ceremonies - This concludes our evening ceremony. Thank you for attending.

Friday, 25 August, 2017, 9 AM Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies – Bob Ripper, Veteran, United States Army, Past Butler County Veteran of the Year, Chaplain, Chicora American Legion Post 642.

Welcome all present. This AVTT Traveling Wall is a Mission of HONOR RESPECT REMEMBRANCE of our fallen and serving men and women in uniform for those without means to travel to our great national memorial. Give it the respect that it has earned and remember that this entire area is a non-smoking area.

Present interesting Wall facts.

National Anthem – We invite all present to join in singing of our National Anthem as sung by Whitney Angeloni

Pledge of Allegiance – We invite all present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America

Invocation – Bob Ripper, Chaplain, Chicora American Legion Post 642

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – U.S. Navy veterans, Jerry Cogley former Butler High School teacher and Dave Curran, Past Armstrong County Veteran of the Year.

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA personnel – Will Guitteau & Jason Tindall, VFW Post 249, Butler

Present Wreath of Flowers – Will Guitteau & Jason Tindall, VFW Post 249, Butler

Present Speaker – Kathleen T. Swazuk. Kathleen Trew Swazuk was 19 years old and a junior in nursing school when she joined the Army Student Program. She had dreams of duty stations in San Francisco, Denver or Washington D.C. Arriving at basic training in Fort Sam Houston in Texas, these dreams turned to the reality that 80% of her class would be in Vietnam by the years end. Like many young women and men at that time, Kathie was sent to Vietnam where her job was to provide medical care to our wounded soldiers. After serving 13 months in Vietnam she returned home to experience the silence and imposed shame that serving in this unpopular war brought to those who had served. She hid the memories and her pain in her book, Wartorn Heart. She shares poems of war, love, and relationships experienced by a young girl who became a woman in the war zone of Vietnam.

Master of Ceremonies – Thank Kathleen Swazuk for her insight.

The Cadets of Squadron 712 Civil Air Patrol – Butler will now Honor those who gave their lives for the United States in the Vietnam War

Master of Ceremonies - This concludes our morning ceremony. Thank you for attending.

Friday, 25 August, 2017, 12 Noon Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies – Bob Ripper, Past Butler County Veteran of the Year, Chaplain, Chicora American Legion Post 642.

Welcome all present. This AVTT Traveling Wall is a Mission of HONOR RESPECT REMEMBRANCE of our fallen and serving men and women in uniform for those without means to travel to our great national memorial. Give it the respect that it has earned and remember that this entire area is a non-smoking area. Present interesting Wall facts.

National Anthem – We invite all present to join in singing of our National Anthem as sung by Sgt. Dan Mosura of the Pennsylvania State Police

Pledge of Allegiance – We invite all present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America

Invocation – Chaplain, Ron Guentner, American Legion Post 117

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – Butler Veterans Honor Guard

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA personnel – Butler Veterans Honor Guard

Present Speaker – Jim Ditmer, United States Army, Vietnam veteran, Past Commander American Legion Post 117 . Jim is a Butler County native born in Herman. Jim entered the Army in 1968 and his tour of duty spanned 1968 and 1969. He served with the 11th Armored Division, Cavalry, E Troop. Jim was wounded in combat. Upon his return to the United States Jim served the balance of his time in the 2nd Armored (Hell On Wheels) Division. Jim also served in the United States Army Reserves until 1974. Jim received the Purple Heart Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Jim married his wife Sharyn in 1970. The couple has three children, daughters Kelly, Cindy and Amy.

Master of Ceremonies – Thank Jim Ditmer for insight.

The Butler County Sheriff's Honor Guard will now Honor those on the AVTT Traveling Wall that gave their lives for our country.

Master of Ceremonies – This concludes our noon ceremony. Thank you for attending.

Friday, 25 August, 2017, 7 PM Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies – John Moore, Marine Veteran, Past Butler County Veteran of the Year

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National Anthem – We invite all present to join in singing of our National Anthem as sung by Hannah Bossinger

Pledge of Allegiance – We invite all present to join in saying of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America

Invocation – Chaplain, Ron Guenter, American Legion Post 117

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – Butler Veterans Honor Guard

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA veterans – Butler Veterans Honor Guard

Present Speaker – Colonel Alex McClinche USMCR (Ret.) – Colonel McClinche enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in November 1964 shortly after graduating from Bucknell University. He completed Boot camp at Parris Island, SC and Infantry Training at Camp LeJeune, NC and received orders to the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam (RVN) as an Infantry Rifleman. His orders were terminated upon his selection to Officers Candidate School, Quantico, VA. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in December 1965. Lt. McClinche then attended Officers Basic School and, upon graduation, was selected as an Infantry Officer. He reported to the 1st Marine Division in RVN in July 1966 and was assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines as a Rifle Platoon Commander. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in April 1967 and completed his combat tour in August 1967. Upon returning to the States he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines at Camp Lejeune NC and promoted to Captain in October 1967. He served as Company Commander and later became the Battalion Operations Officer, S-3, until his release from active duty in December 1968. Captain McClinche joined the Marine Corps Reserve in February 1969 and served continuously in various command and staff billets until his retirement in July 1996. In 1973 while serving as Commanding Officer of "Lima" Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines, the Company was selected as the Outstanding Ground Company in the Marine Corps Reserve. During these years of service he was fortunate to have numerous periods of Extended Active Duty; the most significant billet was as Tactics Instructor at the Command

and Staff College in Quantico, VA. Col. McClinche was promoted to Major in July 1975, Lt Colonel in August 1982 and Colonel in July 1988. His personal awards include: Purple Heart w/Gold Star (2nd award), the Meritorious Service Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon along with numerous unit, service and campaign awards. He is a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School and the Command and Staff College along with numerous courses at the Landing Force Training Command. He and his wife, Molly, reside in Southern Butler County in Adams Township. He has three adult children, two adult step-children and many grandchildren.

Master of Ceremonies – Thank Col. McClinche for insight

Master of Ceremonies - This concludes our evening ceremony. Thank you for attending.

Saturday, 26 August, 2017, 9 AM Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies – Al Worsley, Veteran Air Force, Commander Butler American Legion Post 778

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Present interesting wall facts.

National Anthem – We invite all present to join in singing of our National Anthem as sung by Chloe Fritsch

Pledge of Allegiance – We invite all present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America

Invocation – Chaplain, Chuck Mc Call, American Legion Post 778

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – Butler Honor Guard

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA personnel – Butler Honor Guard

Present Wreath of Flowers – Butler Honor Guard

Present Speaker – Ken Carlson. Ken is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Army's Airborne and Ranger schools. As a Captain in 1969-70 he served in Vietnam as an Artillery Battery Commander with the 1st Cavalry Division and then as an Artillery Liaison Officer with the 7th Cavalry during the invasion of Cambodia. Among his awards are the Bronze Star for valor, Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

Following military service, Ken joined the FBI as a Special Agent. He served in that capacity for 26 years and retired in 1996 from the Pittsburgh Field Office as the Supervisor of the Violent Crime Program. Following retirement from the FBI, he obtained a Master's Degree in Leadership and taught

as an Adjunct Professor at Geneva College for five years. During that same period he was a contract employee for the CIA and served in that capacity for five years. Ken is now retired and lives with his wife, Carol, in Mars, PA.

Master of Ceremonies - Thank Ken Carlson for his insight

The Butler High School ROTC Honor Guard will now Honor those on the Vietnam Traveling Wall

Master of Ceremonies - This concludes our morning ceremony. Thank you for attending.

Saturday, 26 August, 2017, 12 Noon Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies – Dean McMillan, Veteran, United States Navy, Past Butler County Veteran of the Year

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National Anthem – We invite all present to join in singing of our National Anthem as sung by Sgt. Dan Mosura of the Pennsylvania State Police, Beaver County

Pledge of Allegiance – We invite all present to join in saying of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America

Invocation – Chaplain Chuck McCall, American Legion Post 778

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – Butler Honor Guard

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA personnel – Butler Honor Guard

Present Speaker – Lt. Colonel Gary Kuhn. Lt. Col. Kuhn was born in Fredonia, PA. He served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1990. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War. He served in the following: 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, 193rd Infantry Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment. Lt. Colonel attended the Command General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Lt. Col. Kuhn also served in 1st Cavalry Division, and the Army Security Agency (ASA). and the His locations of service include Fort Dix, New Jersey, Fort Gordon, Georgia, Fort Benning, Georgia, Vietnam, Fort Hauchuca, Arizona, Panama, Egypt, and Germany.

Lt. Col. Kuhn served with the Multinational Peacekeeping Force and Observers in the Sinai Desert.

Lt. Col. Kuhn's awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, Jump Wings, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal – 4 awards, Army Commendation – 3 Awards.

Lt. Col Kuhn also served as 4 term Commander of American Legion Post 778.

Master of Ceremonies – Thank Lt. Colonel Kuhn for his insight

Master of Ceremonies - Announce the Pennsylvania State Police Ceremonial Unit. This unit pays tribute to Department members, retired members upon their death, officers and troopers in other states killed in the line of duty and Color Guard for related services approved and events outside the Department.

The Pennsylvania State Police Memorial Unit will now Honor those inscribed names upon the Vietnam Wall

Thank the Pennsylvania State Police Memorial unit Color Guard for their outstanding performance to honor those that gave their lives in Vietnam.

Master of Ceremonies - This concludes our afternoon ceremony. Thank you for attending. You are invited to join this evening's Candle Light and Behind the Wall Ceremonies beginning at 7 PM.

Saturday, 26 August, 2017, 7 PM Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies – Rex Brown, Cranberry Township VFW Post 879

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National Anthem – We invite all present to join in singing of our National Anthem as sung by Hannah Bossinger

Pledge of Allegiance – We invite all present to join in the saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America

Invocation – Chaplain, James Poshard, Cranberry Township VFW Post 879

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – Cranberry Township VFW Post 879

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA personnel – Cranberry Township VFW Post 879

Present Speaker – Lieutenant General Gus Pagonis. Lieutenant General Gus Pagonis was born in Charleroi, PA. Upon completion of the Reserve Officers Training Corps curriculum and his Business

Administration studies at Penn State in 1964 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and awarded a Master's Degree in Business Administration (Operations Research) also from Penn State. His military education includes completion of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Transportation Officer Advance Course, United States Army Command and General Staff College and the Naval War College.

He has held a wide variety of important command and staff positions during his military service. His most notable assignment has been Commanding General, 22nd Support Command, Saudi Arabia, in which he was responsible for the reception, onward movement of troops and equipment, and in their sustainment (life support) in Southwest Asia. His efforts insured the building of the theater logistical structure, sustaining a victorious campaign and bringing all personnel and material back home. Additionally, General Pagonis has served in every command position from platoon leader, through company, battalion, group and division support commands. These key assignments included duty as Commanding Officer of the 1097th Transportation Company (Medium Boat) where the waterborne artillery concept for riverine warfare was developed, as the Division Transportation Officer in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and as the Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion (Airmobile) 501st Infantry, all in Vietnam. At Ft. Eustis, Virginia he served as the Commander of 10th Transportation Battalion (Terminal). With the 193rd Infantry Brigade in Panama, he served as Director of Industrial Operations, Chief of Staff, and Commander, Logistic Support Command. He then went on to Ft. Carson, Colorado as the Commander, Division Support Command, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized). Finally, he returned as Commanding General of the 21st Theater Army Area Command (TAACOM), United States Army Europe where he had previously served as Deputy Commanding General.

General Pagonis served in a variety of important career-building assignments. In Washington, D.C. he served as a Personnel Staff Officer with the United States Army Military Personnel Center and as Staff Officer with the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison. For the Office of the Department of the Army, he served as the Director of Plans and Operations and later as the Director of Transportation, Energy and Troop Support. At the Army Materiel Command he served as the Deputy Commanding General for Materiel Readiness which included acting as the Army's Executive Director for Conventional Ammunition and Chemical and Nuclear Matters.

General Pagonis' awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device (with three oak leaf clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with four oak leaf clusters), three Air Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal (with oak leaf cluster). He also wears the Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

He and his wife Cheryl have two children - Gust, a Captain in the United States Army and Robert, a university student. After completion of a 29-1/2 year military career, General Pagonis has begun a second career as the Senior Vice President for Logistics, Sears Merchandise Group, based in Chicago, Illinois.

Master of Ceremonies – Thank Lieutenant General Pagonis for insight

Master of Ceremonies – Announce the ceremonies to come. First, the "Candlelight Ceremony" and then the "From the Other Side" Ceremony. As you entered this evening you were presented with glow lights and requested NOT to activate them until time for the coming Wall Candlelight Ceremony. We ask that you now proceed to spread across the length of the AVTT Wall, face the Wall and activate your glows.

Master of Ceremonies – When all are in place in front of the Wall introduce the Butler County ACTS Choir. They will perform a medley of hymns of the United States Military Armed Forces.

Master of Ceremonies - American Legion Rider, Leroy Bunyan will now read the stirring narrative "From the Other Side."

Master of Ceremonies - This concludes our evening ceremony. Thank you for attending.

Sunday, 27 August, 2017, 7 AM Ceremony

Sunrise Service – 7 AM – Pastor Larry Loreg

Upon completion of the Sunrise Service:

Master of Ceremonies – Herb Carpenter, Commander, Mars VFW Post 7505

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Present interesting wall facts.

National Anthem – We invite all present to join in singing of our National Anthem as sung by Maddie Dolin, Representing Mars VFW Post 7505

Pledge of Allegiance – We invite all present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America

Invocation – Gene Bradshaw, Chaplain, Mars VFW Post 7505

Flag Fold & POW/MIA combined Ceremonies – Flag Folding, Mars VFW Post 7505 Members. POW/MIA, Mary Jean Cuddyre and Mars Post 7505 Auxillary Members.

Read names of 43 Butler County KIA in Vietnam – Herb Carpenter, Commander, American Legion Post 7505

Present Speaker – Rocky Bleier. Rocky was born in Appleton, Wisconsin in 1946 and attended Appletown (WI) Xavier High School where he learned hard lessons and succeeded to become a college football scholarship player. Rocky successfully played football becoming the starting halfback for the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. Rocky graduated from Notre Dame in 1968. Rocky's toughness caught the eye of the Pittsburgh Steelers and he was drafted in 1968 as pick 417 in the 16th Round. Despite his low draft position, Rocky was determined to show all that he could make it. Rocky compensated for his lack of size and speed with grit and determination and made the Steeler team in 1968.

His career in pro football was cut short before the Steelers season ended in 1968 by his second draft and the United States Army. Rocky entered the U.S. Army in 1968 as a Specialist, Company C, 4th Battalion (light), 31st Infantry Regiment, 196th Infantry Brigade. He was posted to the Republic of Vietnam where he was badly wounded when his platoon was ambushed, receiving wounds from both grenade and rifle fire into his lower right leg. It took a long while before he was barely able to walk and his Steeler career seemed over when doctors told him he would never play football again.

While recovering in a Japanese hospital he received a mailing from Art Rooney, the Steelers' owner, that read **"Rock – the team's not doing well. We need you."** Rocky was now so inspired that Mr. Rooney would take the time to write and show interest in him. Mr. Rooney and the Steelers took a special place in his heart. Mr. Rooney lit the fire in Rocky that drove him back, determined to prove the doctors wrong. Rocky was discharged from the U.S. Army in 1970 with a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the coveted Combat Infantry Badge. Determined to return to the game he loved, with sheer courage, determination and drive, Rocky overcame all his obstacles and fought his way back and began informal workouts with the Steelers in 1970. Those informal workouts led to his winning the starting halfback position on arguably the best professional football team ever assembled - the Pittsburgh Steelers of the 1970's that won four Super Bowls in the decade.

An example for all, Rocky the veteran, became a role model and icon in Pittsburgh for all especially all suffering from adversities. Join me to welcome the "Rock" – Rocky Bleier!

Master of Ceremonies – Thank Rocky Bleier for his insight.

Master of Ceremonies – Bantam Marines retire the Colors

Master of Ceremonies – Firing Detail Commander Emanuelson - Bantam Marines Rifle Salute

Taps – Bantam Marine Detachment 743

Master of Ceremonies - This concludes the final ceremony. The AVTT Traveling Wall will remain open for visitors until 12 Noon today. At that time the visit of the AVTT Traveling Wall to Butler County in 2017 will conclude. The Butler County American Legion Riders thank you for your attendance.